

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1919.—Copyright, 1919, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

## U. S. CONVERTING ENGLISHMEN TO IRISH FREEDOM

Parties Are Surprised at  
America's Strong Support  
for Sinn Feiners.

IRELAND'S HOUR AT HAND

Revolt May Come if Self-Government Is Not Granted to Island.

By SHAW DESMOND.

LONDON, Sept. 29. This is Ireland's hour. There is not an Irishman throughout the world who does not feel it. England herself is feeling it. Even her statesmen, policy-muddled, have the dim foreboding. In the twilight of the gods that to-day broods over Ireland the Irishman, whether "Ulsterman or Southern, feels it. It is a feeling that rises above economic contentions, above policy, above reason itself.

Before that hour strikes, and with the first stroke, Time will once more focus the attention of the world on Ireland. Let us, while we are still brain-clear, review the "orientation" of Ireland to the British Empire, and let us do it dispassionately. In this moment, when the writer at least believes we are standing at the threshold of a great tragedy, we must at all times think without the blurring of passion. Only clear thinking can avert that tragedy—for do we not learn from the lore of the ancients that even Fate herself can be turned?

Party Views Changed.

How do to-day's British political parties view Ireland? First the war, and then America—always America—has completely changed the party view. To the Conservatives (there are no Unionists to-day except in northeast Ulster) Ireland is still a sealed book—the Irish complex as labyrinthine as that of China or India. They believe entirely—and they are entirely honest in their belief—in the Union, regard the Irish as a rebel dreamer, and think him outside the pale of reason because he still "thinks his way to a star" instead of basing it on the solid earth of empire. They are against Home Rule. They have learned nothing because they have not the power to forget. But because the 700 years' struggle has tired them, because the war has shown Ireland the irreconcilable, and because they are tired of the empire of the empire's power magazine, they are willing to grant a measure of home rule—if the Irish can agree. They have become "devolution home rulers."

At the point of their intellectual ignorance, the Liberals. They are astonished to find that Americans without distinction are ardent "Irishmen" whether they have Irish blood or not. When they hear of the Sinn Fein colors being carried down Fifth Avenue by New York regiments who are anti-German as any Conservative American, they are incredulous. To them it is as incredible as so many other things American. But it has to be reckoned with. Some of them are asking: "Supposing that England owes—principal and interest? Supposing?"

Support Is Passionless.

The Liberals? Well, there are no Liberals in England except a few old men of the sea who dream their dreams of a British free trade world on their back benches in the House of Commons which has become the sepulchre of their dead hopes. But the people who call themselves Liberals, who, under the magic pings of an enchanted Welshman have been led into the wilderness of the Coalition Government and have thought it a blessing to have the politicians of No Man's Land—these people are Home Rulers, as they always have been from the time of Gladstone. The Welshman himself, Mr. Lloyd George, is also a Home Ruler, though no Irishman here. He is an article of faith—but a faith without passion. And faith without passion is a dead thing.

Labor? Labor has always been Home Rule. With Labor, Home Rule is also an article of faith without passion, but a faith animated by fair play.

So much for the political parties. Now for the people who follow them, for there is a difference between democracy and its leaders, as there is between democracy and the democrat. There never was a time in England when the broad masses were really intrigued about Ireland. The men who have made Home Rule an issue in English elections have been a handful. It has been said that Gladstone was the only genuine Home Ruler in his own Liberal Home Rule party. But to-day, if a vote, freed from party, were taken of England, Scotland and Wales the great majority would vote Home Rule—nay, more, with stomach questions to-day absorbing all others they would perhaps even separation itself with equality. To the man in the street Ireland is a damnable nuisance. To him she is incomprehensible. But, as one of them put it the other day, for the average Englishman is honest, he would vote Home Rule—nay, he would go to hell, in God's name let her go! To the British mind, going to hell and breaking out of leading strings are synonymous.

Lloyd George Not Free.

England is only waiting for a lead from the Government. The Government cannot give it, for it has no leaders. Lloyd George, who at one time might have done it, is to-day

as he is with the most difficult problems of a statesman in Europe, his party crumbling under him, the prey of unseen forces—he speaks with a halter around his neck—he is no longer a free man.

To all these men comes day by day the voice from the clouds: "Will you let my people go?" It comes insistent in newspaper, in graph, in Atlantic cable, in dreams: "Will you let my people go?" England begins to believe she will have the seven plagues if she does not let them go. She begins to believe that God really does love the Irish! For the first time she is afraid. She will let them go—but with the cord of compromise around their ankles.

There is one man who might even at the eleventh hour save the tragedy impending, but he could only do it if he were Prime Minister, with free hands, and at the head of a united party. But Lord Northcliffe is not Prime Minister. He is always referred to as the strong, silent man behind the scenes, who pulls the strings of the figures in the limelight. But events may yet force even the hand of the one man in England who at the moment is strong enough and independent enough to give her a lead on Ireland, and one day we may see him Prime Minister, but it will then be too late. It is he who has put forward the Times Home Rule scheme.

Carson Cries "Traitor."

This Times scheme of devolution—it is not really Home Rule—is the outstanding fact of the Irish politics of our time. That it could be put forward is to show the revolution in the English viewpoint on Ireland. It has led to Sir Edward Carson, who will probably shortly visit America, attacking Lord Northcliffe as a "traitor" because he has changed the unchangeable—the Times policy of a century. He has threatened before to "raise the standard" but Sir Edward, honest as he is, has outlived his time. The hour is Ireland's, not Ulster's. England will not hear him.

What about Ireland herself? With the exception of about \$50,000 in Ulster, practically the whole of Ireland to-day is a Sinn Fein country. Six years ago there were literally not 20,000 Sinn Feiners in Ireland. When I visited Dublin the year before the war they were regarded as madmen and impossibilities. To-day they have won the soul of Ireland, and with it the world outside. The official Sinn Fein policy is to conquer and bite their nails. Even when Devlin, little man that he is, brings forward his scheme of proportional representation nobody looks up. When Plunkett launches his imperial devolution scheme, the Sinn Fein press will have all or nothing. For the Sinn Fein, Ireland, is the determining factor, Ireland, is always extreme and idealist, and under stress rises above the threshold of consciousness to surprise the world.

Programme Is Constructive.

Instead, Ireland has put out the Sinn Fein constructive programme, which a prominent American lawyer told me the other day could be taken to any bank in Wall Street and money raised on it. Behind that programme is the brain of the movement—Arthur Griffith—de Valera is only the inspirer. This man Griffith, a distinguished American said, could, with his brilliant brain, earn anywhere in America \$300 a week—instead, he prefers a darned shirt and a pair of trousers. He is a rebel, Larkin had Connolly been his mentor, he would have heard only of Larkin. De Valera has Griffith, though it is de Valera, not Griffith, who keeps the wires burning.

How far the constructive side of Sinn Fein has gone is shown by the Times, which gives serious consideration to the Sinn Fein proposition, which, however, it criticizes strongly, as being "jejune" and "ineffective." Whether the Times be right or wrong, the lack in Ireland is not martyrdom—Ireland has never lacked men to die for, what she needs are men who will live for her—but men and women used to the big world, who are outside who can think internationally. That is one of the stumbling blocks of Sinn Fein.

So much for the orientation of Ireland to the Empire. Now for the thing that is coming.

Revolution Is Possible.

I believe that Griffith and de Valera, although I do not know either the one or the other, feeling that the hour, which, if allowed to pass, may not return, has come, the psychological moment when Ireland has the ear of the world, are determined to put all on a throw of the dice. They know, no better, that the young Irishmen who have been drilling have not a dog's chance, because the machine gun has made successful rebellion impossible in our times—but if the solution does not come in some other way out of the lap of fate—and they know the solution for which they are hoping—I believe that they are determined to plunge Ireland within a short time into a bloody revolution that will focus the eyes of the world—a hopeless holocaust in which the flower of her manhood will die—but in dying will so shock the conscience of the world that the giving of self-government to Ireland will become imperative.

To many of us who love Ireland, that is a terrible responsibility. To those of us who believe that in the age of democracy the time of the sword has passed and the time of the spirit comes—those who believe that the force of Ireland has always been a spiritual, not a physical, force—this decision, if it comes to a message received yesterday by the Irishman, that a little more patience will see the full fruition of Ireland's hopes. Will not Sinn Fein hold before it is too late?

This is Ireland's hour—her darkest hour—but we Irishmen believe with the deathless vision that is Ireland's, even against all reason, that it is the hour before the dawn. We do not want to see that dawn flecked with the blood of Ireland's sons.

We want men and women to live for Ireland as well as to die for her.

## 4 FOOTED WAIFS TO HAVE A HOME

The Oasis to Enlarge Usefulness to Include Cats and Dogs.

FUND DRIVE IS PLANNED

Activities of the Woman's Club Reviewed by Miss Helen Tyler.

There's an Oasis at the Commodore Hotel. No, this story has nothing whatever to do with prohibition. Oasis is the name of a woman's club which has headquarters there, and all the members drink tea, served at their fortnightly meetings.

In most ways the Oasis is like a thousand other women's clubs. Its object is social, where the most exclusive of women and out of town women have a chance to meet and chat and enlarge their horizons, and to encourage art, music, letters and the drama. The members are Misses Burnett, Gertrude Atherton, Martha Hedman, Mrs. Louis Joseph Vance, Mrs. Oliver Herford, Elizabeth Jordan and other women of the club. But one thing which the Oasis differs from other women's clubs is that it is planning to establish a home for friendless, aged and decrepit cats.

Now let me misogynist who with an imperfect knowledge of the virtues of feline cats, leap to the conclusion that the Oasis's proposed home is for its members who are members of the club. This institution will be for four footed cats, also dogs—the down and outers among them. And it is the idea of the president of the club, Miss Helen Tyler, born of her love for the animal which the Egyptians worshipped, but which everybody since those early days has rather kicked around.

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Kitten Found a Home.

Miss Tyler did not always care for cats. For a good while, being very busy with play producing and other matters she got along happily enough without a cat. But one day, when she was sitting in her cottage at Harmon-on-the-Hudson, a most engaging little grey kitten came to her door, and, for some reason, and clung trembling with its tiny claws to the wire of the screen door. Ordinary humanity sent Miss Tyler over to the kitten, and she caught it, and fed it, and before bedtime that kitten had a lasting place in her home and heart.

It is still there—now grown a large, imperious, but very affectionate creature, and is Miss Tyler's loved companion. And because of him she has learned to take note of other dumb creatures which are in unfortunate predicaments. But one story about four years ago, when she was sitting in her cottage at Harmon-on-the-Hudson, a most engaging little grey kitten came to her door, and, for some reason, and clung trembling with its tiny claws to the wire of the screen door. Ordinary humanity sent Miss Tyler over to the kitten, and she caught it, and fed it, and before bedtime that kitten had a lasting place in her home and heart.

But I have a theory that there would be homes for many of the homeless cats of New York. For the time being, the homeless cats, Fannie Harley, the Western woman who waked up New York recently by appearing here in a short skirt, and a cat, and a cat that proves this. She says she had a cat in her home out West, a cat that she loved, and when she knew she must leave it, she wrote her mother to get her pet. She got forty letters from many persons who were willing to receive him; but the cat, with that unfeeling streak some cats possess, seemed to know that his mistress was going to leave him; and he took sick and died. Miss Harley, determined that those letters should not be taken and fed up and found homes for, or humanely destroyed. Of course, many persons will talk about the greater need of homes for children. But there are those, and the members of the Oasis want to do better, do it, toward supporting them. We do not commiserate children less because we have a little pity to spare for the four footed creatures that have no speech to tell us of their suffering.

"So we of the Oasis are hoping that by and by, when we have gotten some money together for the purpose, we can have a little place opened in the country where the forlorn dogs and cats one sees skulking about, starved and homeless could be taken and fed up and found homes for, or humanely destroyed. Of course, many persons will talk about the greater need of homes for children. But there are those, and the members of the Oasis want to do better, do it, toward supporting them. We do not commiserate children less because we have a little pity to spare for the four footed creatures that have no speech to tell us of their suffering."

The Oasis will start a drive for the home for cats and dogs at a tea at the Commodore Hotel, to be given by the National Association for the Protection of American Rights in Mexico, which is to be held at the Commodore Hotel, 115 East 128th street. Golda was held in \$5,000 bail by Magistrate Levine in the Harlem court yesterday for examination Tuesday.

Prisoners described themselves as Bonnie Golita, 126 East Eighty-third street; Luciano Lauff, 432 East 123d street; Anthony Lauff, 432 East 123d street, and one Lauff, 75 East 128th street. Golda was held in \$5,000 bail by Magistrate Levine in the Harlem court yesterday for examination Tuesday.

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## NON-CITY HOSPITALS ARE \$3,000,000 SHORT

Deficit Is Result of Increased Operations Cost.

A deficit of more than \$3,000,000 will be shown by New York's non-municipal hospitals this year if the situation revealed by the annual report of the United Hospital Fund is not improved, says Henry J. Fisher, chairman of the executive committee of the fund, said yesterday. It comprises forty-six of the non-municipal hospitals of the city. The report marks the completion of the fourth year of the United Hospital Fund, which began in 1915 with nineteen institutions.

The report explains that the deficit will be due to the greatly increased costs of hospital operations and of maintaining free wards. In the latter the daily cost of maintaining non-paying patients has risen from \$2.02 in 1914 to \$3.12 in 1918, an increase of 55 per cent. For 1919 the per capita cost is estimated at \$3.50. Last year free hospital care was given 147,423 patients, aggregating \$517,000.

The cost of maintenance for the forty-six United Hospitals in 1918 was \$3,075,955. In revenue they received \$4,247,145 from patients, and \$1,532,229 from endowments. The remainder had to be made up from voluntary gifts, money appropriations from the United Hospital Fund, and other unusual sources.

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## LINE CALLS GAIN IN FARE ESSENTIAL

Long Island Electric Railway

Applies for New Tariff Schedule.

Declaring that an increase in fare will be the only thing that will save his company from a receivership, W. O. Wood, vice-president and general manager of the Long Island Electric Railway Company, which runs cars from Jamaica to Far Rockaway, to the Brooklyn Borough line and to Belmont Park, has applied to the Public Service Commission for permission to put into effect a new tariff schedule on October 15.

Commissioner Lewis Nixon has set down a hearing on the application for October 20 at 10:30 A. M. The company's case is jointly by Interborough Rapid Transit Company and Long Island Railroad interests. Its officials say it has never paid a dividend, and that it is now in a financial straits. The company's case is jointly by Interborough Rapid Transit Company and Long Island Railroad interests. Its officials say it has never paid a dividend, and that it is now in a financial straits.

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## W. C. T. U. DENIES IT IS FIGHTING WEED

Leaders Again Repudiate Political Campaign to Exterminate Tobacco.

Charges Is "WET" Trick Activities Confined to Educational Work Among Youth of Country.

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